

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Southside Chattanooga Lead - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #7  
Residential Soil Removal Continues  
Southside Chattanooga Lead  
  
Chattanooga, TN  
Latitude: 35.0333793 Longitude: -85.3057271

**To:** Jim Mc Guire, ERRB Reg 4

**From:** Perry Gaughan, On Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 1/7/2013

**Reporting Period:** Dec 10th through Dec 21st 2012

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	B4J4	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	8/19/2012
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	9/17/2012	<b>Start Date:</b>	9/24/2012
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Lead contaminated soil on 52 properties being removed as a time critical removal under CERCLA.

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) requested the EPA Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch's (ERRB's) assistance after discovering that the lawns of one residence and potentially several more were contaminated with lead along Read Avenue near downtown Chattanooga. Initially, one resident along Read Avenue presented to the emergency room with severe fatigue and abdominal pain. Emergency room blood work indicated lead levels approaching 20 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dl) which alerted TDEC to conduct follow up assessments. TDEC requested assistance from ERRB to characterize the soil around the home and an initial assessment was conducted with SEDS (Science and Ecosystem Support Division) Athens in which three homes were assessed as well as a public park and playground area at 1700 Mitchell Avenue. Ten samples were collected and two samples showed elevated lead levels exceeding 400 ppm.

### **1.1.2.1 Location**

The Southside Chattanooga Lead Site is located along Read, Mitchell and Carr Avenues south of Main Street in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee (Latitude: 35.0456, Longitude: -85.3097). The area is a blend of young, middle income couples who are renovating older constructed homes and low to middle income retired couples who have resided in the area for 20 plus years. The vast majority of homes were built in the early 1900's.

The Southside Chattanooga area is immediately adjacent to downtown Chattanooga and was prone to flooding during the early 1900's and prior to the development of damming and flood control measures by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Several of the homes along Read and Mitchell Avenues appear to have been built on 4-5 feet of clay fill.

### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

In response to a request from TDEC, the EPA Region 4 ERRB with assistance from SESD Athens, conducted two follow up assessments of the Read and Mitchell Avenue area in January and April 2012. Of the 81 homes (162 front and back yards) assessed near downtown Chattanooga, 68 lawns (42 %) have lead levels exceeding 400 ppm. Lead levels range from 400 – 4000 ppm. The 4000 ppm sample was collected from a lawn along the 1600 block of Read Ave and the sample contained very dark fine material, most likely a high concentration of bag-house dust.

In addition, the Battle Academy Elementary School which neighbors the site was sampled in mid June 2012. A 20' by 20' grid was laid over the school property and 140 grids were screened using X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (XRF). No significant lead contamination was found and all lead levels were below 55 ppm.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

#### **Dec 10th through Dec 15th, 2012**

During the week of December 10th, Region 4 ERRB continued removal actions in the Southside subdivision of Chattanooga, Tenn. ERRS crew removed fencing from 1719 Read to gain access to excavation areas and excavated contaminated soils from between 1715 and 1717 Read Ave and from between 1717 and 1719 Read Ave. Vegetation was also removed as necessary to gain access to contaminated areas. Clay backfill and topsoil was placed at the back yards of 1715, 1717 and 1719 Read and sodding was completed on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Fence panels were also replaced at 1717 Read prior to the weekend and vegetation was replaced to the three homeowners specifications.

START contractors continue to assist with technical support, daily operations, post-excavation confirmation sampling using X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (Xrf) and air sampling during excavation and staging of contaminated soils.

The OSC, Tenn Dept of Health and Tenn Dept of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) are currently preparing an assessment strategy for Chattanooga City Council addressing future lead assessments in the downtown area. Chattanooga City Council has asked for a formal presentation on Wednesday, Dec 19th. The OSC continues to coordinate all site activities with state and local health authorities.

#### **Dec 17th through Dec 21st, 2012**

During the week of December 17th, Region 4 ERRB continued removal actions in the Southside subdivision of Chattanooga, Tenn. Heavy rain throughout the week limited excavation and backfilling activities at 1719 and 1721 Read and the decision was made to complete a small backyard excavation at 1514 Mitchell Ave. The owner at 1514 Mitchell requested that the area be backfilled with crush and run

for expanded parking rather than sod and the request was granted. Vegetation which was removed from contaminated areas were replaced to the owners specifications. The crew demobed on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> for the holiday break.

A previously planned briefing for Chattanooga City Council on Wednesday, Dec 19th was postponed based on City Council's request for additional briefing updates from Tenn Dept of Health and Hamilton County Health officials. City Council is requesting that Tenn Health officials prepare a comprehensive lead awareness, education and child testing program for concerned citizens near downtown. The OSC continues to coordinate efforts with TDEC's Andy Binford and Troy Keith and Tenn Dept of Health's Rebecca Gorham.

## 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

## 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

## 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.4 Finance Section

### Estimated Costs \*

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$1,300,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$1,120,000.00	86.15%
TAT/START	\$100,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$76,000.00	76.00%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$1,400,000.00</b>	<b>\$204,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,196,000.00</b>	<b>85.43%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

No information available at this time.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.